



America's Ocean Future Initiative



\$ 51.6 million in FY 2001

America's oceans and coasts are special places vital to the economic prosperity and environmental health of the nation. Oceans have profound impacts on our daily lives: they generate our weather; they produce food, medicines and other products we use every day; and they carry the bulk of our world trade, linking us to the global marketplace and keeping our economy strong. America's oceans also have limits. They cannot provide unlimited fish to feed growing populations, and they cannot absorb the continued flow of wastes and contaminants from human activities on land and at sea. With increased investment in ocean research, technology, exploration and sustainable management, America's oceans can provide the nation with products, services and prosperity for generations to come. NOAA's FY 2001 budget requests \$ 51.6 million in new funding to protect, restore and explore America's oceans for the 21st century. This initiative directly addresses recommendations identified in the recent report on U.S. ocean priorities entitled, "Turning to the Sea: America's Ocean Future".

Safe Navigation (National Ocean Service - \$6.2M)

NOAA requests an increase of \$6.2 million to promote safe and efficient navigation. New funding will provide a suite of navigation products and services that help ensure the safety of marine transportation while improving the economic efficiency and competitiveness of U.S. commerce. Funding will allow NOAA to keep pace with the increasing demand for navigation services including traditional products such as paper charts and tide predictions, as well as powerful new electronic navigation charts and real-time oceanographic systems. In partnership with the private sector and local authorities, NOAA will be able to provide the quality assurance necessary to fully implement the Physical Oceanographic Real-time Systems (PORTS) to help modernize the nation's largest ports. This new funding will improve the competitiveness of U.S. ports while lowering the risk of marine shipping accidents and resultant pollution.

Aquaculture (National Marine Fisheries Service/Oceanic and Atmospheric Research - \$2.6M)

New funding of \$2.6 million will be used to promote the development of environmentally sound and economically viable aquaculture practices in the U.S. Around the world, many wild stocks of commercially harvested marine species are dwindling as the demand for ocean resources such as food, medicines, aquarium species and other products is rising. \$1.6 million of the request will support research and development of new aquaculture technologies for use in commercial practices. \$1.0 million of the request will be used to work with federal and state agencies, scientists, local communities and the private sector to develop aquaculture standards for federal ocean waters to ensure environmental protection through appropriate use of aquaculture technologies. Increased investment in sound aquaculture is essential to the future of this important and promising ocean industry.

Fisheries Assessments, Conservation and Management (National Marine Fisheries Service - \$11.9.0M)

NOAA requests an increase of \$11.9 million for key activities to help rebuild and manage the nation's valuable fishery resources. Effective management and restoration of the nation's fisheries depends on sound science and accurate information on the health of fishery stocks and changes in ocean conditions. This request will fund additional observers, stock assessments, economic assessments and oceanographic research to provide significant new information essential to better management of America's ocean fisheries. \$3.6 million of the increase will support the National Observer Program to provide additional observers to collect key information mandated by the Sustainable Fisheries Act. \$3.0 million of the increase will provide information on oceanographic conditions to better assess and predict trends in fishery stocks. \$1.8 million of the increase will support field studies of essential fish habitats and help reduce the impacts of fishing gear, anchoring, vessels, and discharges from commercial at-sea processing on essential fish habitats. \$3.5 million of the request will collect new information on the economic and social aspects of the nation's fisheries as required by the National Standard 8 of the Sustainable Fisheries Act.

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<u>America's Ocean Future Initiative</u>	<u>FY 2001 Change</u>	<u>NOAA Budget Location</u>
Safe Navigation (\$6.2 million)		National Ocean Service
Tide and Current Data (PORTS)	\$2.8	Navigation Services
Build Nautical Charting Database	\$2.8	Navigation Services
National Spatial Reference System	\$0.6	Navigation Services
Aquaculture (\$2.6 million)		National Marine Fisheries Service
Developing Aquaculture Standards	\$1.0	Information Collection and Analysis
R&D of Aquaculture Technologies	\$1.6	Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
Fisheries Stock Assessments, Conservation and Management (\$11.9M)		Ocean and Great Lakes Programs
National Observer Program	\$3.6	National Marine Fisheries Service
Fisheries Oceanography	\$3.0	Conservation and Management Operations
Field Studies on Essential Fish Habitat	\$1.8	Information Collection and Analyses
Collecting Fish Statistics	\$1.0	Conservation and Management Operations
Developing Economic Data Collection Capacity	\$2.5	Information Collection and Analyses
Fleet Replacement (\$8.0 million)		Procurement, Acquisition and Construction
Construction of Fisheries Research Vessel	[\$8.3]	Fleet Replacement
Reactivation and upgrade of RV ADVENTUROUS	\$8.0	Fleet Replacement
Resource Protection (\$13.5 million)		National Marine Fisheries Service
Protected Species Management	\$13.5	Conservation and Management Operations
Fisheries and Marine Resource Enforcement (\$4.5 million)		National Marine Fisheries Service
Enforcement and Surveillance	\$4.5	Conservation and Management Operations
Seafloor Observatories (\$3.1 million)		Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
Seafloor Observatories	\$3.1	Ocean and Great Lakes Programs
Acquisition of Data (\$1.8 million)		National Ocean Service
Acquisition of Data	\$1.8	Acquisition of Data
TOTAL	\$51.6	

Fleet Replacement (National Marine Fisheries Service - \$8.0M)

An increase of \$8.0 million is requested to reactivate, convert and upgrade the currently inactive NOAA vessel Adventurous to provide much needed research activities on fisheries and marine mammals. In addition, \$8.3 million is funded to continue construction begun in FY2000 of a new fisheries research vessel essential for conducting stock assessments.

Resource Protection (National Marine Fisheries Service - \$13.5M)

NOAA requests an increase of \$13.5 million to protect and recover endangered, threatened and at-risk marine life. \$12.3 million of the request will implement efforts required under the Endangered Species Act to prevent extinction of highly endangered marine species such as leatherback turtles, loggerhead turtles, monk seals, right whales, beluga whales and Pacific and Atlantic coastal salmon. \$1.2 million of the increase will be used to reduce the impacts of fishing practices on coral reefs and other at-risk marine species to prevent further population declines.

Fisheries and Marine Resource Enforcement (National Marine Fisheries Service - \$4.5M)

NOAA requests an increase of \$4.5 million for enforcement activities including \$1.3 million to expand current vessel monitoring programs, \$1.3 million to provide additional enforcement to support salmon recovery efforts, and \$2.5 million to establish cooperative enforcement programs with coastal states.

Seafloor Observatories (Oceanic and Atmospheric Research - \$3.1M)

An increase of \$3.1 million is requested to launch a program to map and explore America's oceans using advanced underwater technology. Funding will expand shallow-water observatories off the coasts of New Jersey and Florida, and establish a new deep-sea observatories in the Pacific and in the Gulf of Mexico. This request will help explore America's uncharted oceans, discover new scientific and commercial opportunities, develop new undersea technologies, and increase our ability to manage the nation's valuable ocean resources.

Acquisition of Data (National Ocean Service - \$1.8M)

NOAA requests an increase of \$1.8 million to provide days-at-sea for collection of vital data on ocean conditions and the changing chemistry of coastal waters. This request will provide scientists with an additional 140 days-at-sea through the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System ship time partnership.

For Further Information Contact:
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